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Research360

will help researchers at the University of Bath to get the most out of their research data. It is funded by the JISC Managing Research Data Programme.



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Overview

Research360 is developing an internal online training module for early career researchers that focuses on the current agenda for research data management (RDM). The module is to be discipline agnostic, focusing on general issues relating to RDM. The primary audience comprises researchers, both postgraduate and academic staff, with a secondary audience of undergraduates undertaking research projects and professional support staff wishing to learn more about RDM to support their developing roles in this area. It is part of an overall support strategy, which also includes face-to-face workshops for postgraduates, web pages and individual support via an institution-wide email address.



Module Development

Creation of the module builds on previous JISC-funded work including the MANTRA training module, produced by the University of Edinburgh. It is being developed in Xerte, an open source e-learning developer tool, and will be delivered in Moodle, the University of Bath's VLE. It will also be released as an Open Educational Resource (OER) in 2013.

Instructional Design Process

The design process has consisted of four distinct stages which required all the team to physically meet up for several hours and work together on specified outcomes.

Meeting 1: Derive Learning Outcomes and objectives



Meeting 2: Collation of content by subject experts



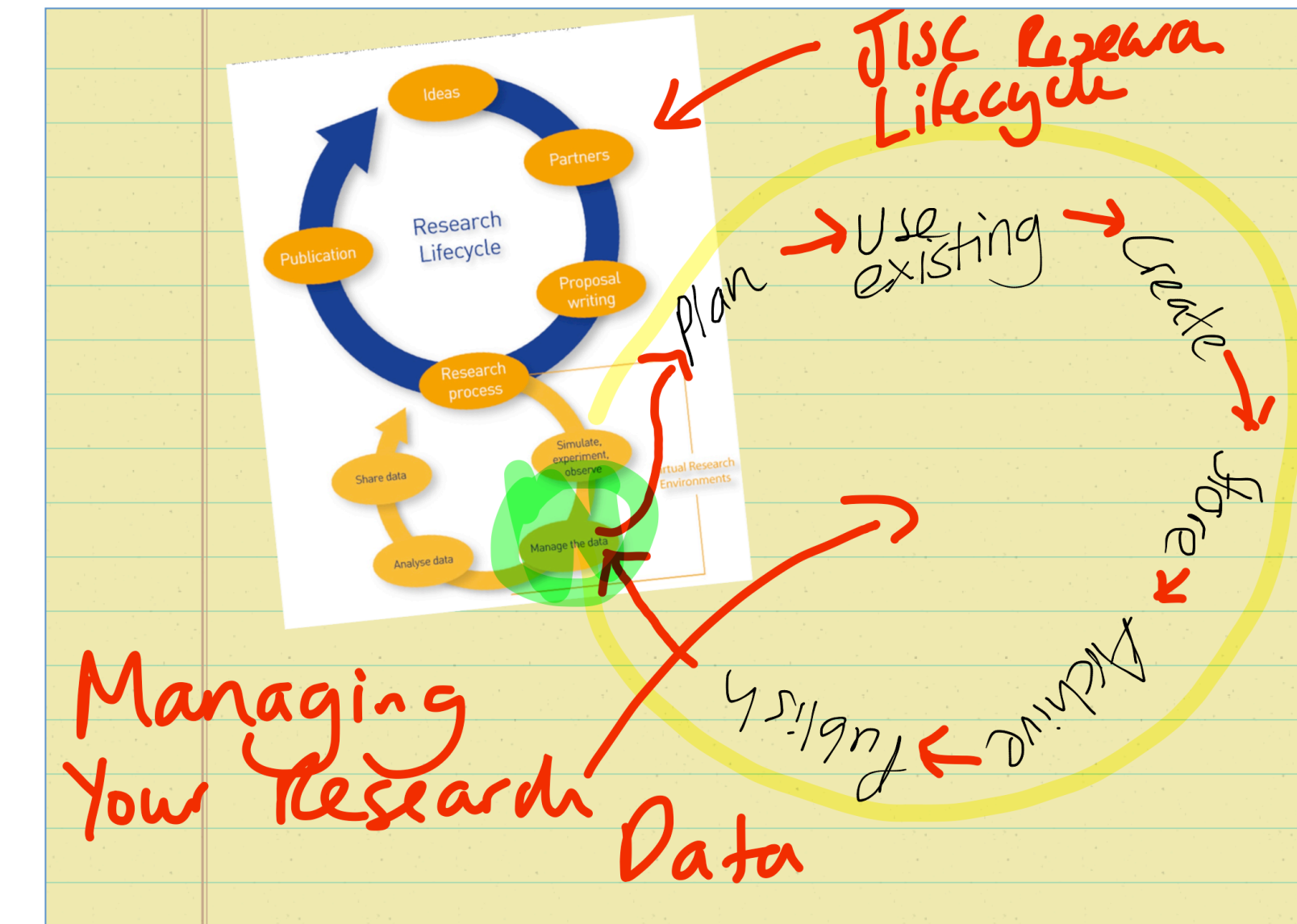
Meeting 3: Outlining of draft design document



Meeting 4: Content agreement & submission



The project team worked with an external consultant to develop appropriate content and technical aspects of the module.



Lessons Learnt

The online training module team consisted of subject experts and e-learning specialists. Those from the University of Bath had knowledge over current policy, practice and infrastructure. The external consultant offered a critical eye and helped keep the need for simplicity and plain English in mind.

The instructional design process had many benefits. Working together in one room on one document ensured that there were no versioning issues and consensus was reached. The time constraints of working in this way have minimised design creep and development of the module is progressing according to the original schedule. For the team (external consultant aside) this has meant little activity needed outside of the meetings. However taking large chunks of time out of ones working schedule isn't practical for everyone.